

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 L-03

AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 DODE-00 EB-07

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, EGEN, SWEL

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC: ITEM 21, NATURAL DISASTERS

1. FOLLOWING DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED IN PPCC BY
CONSESUS JULY 23.

BEGIN TEXT:

RECALLING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2816 (XXVI) OF 14 DECEMBER
1971, ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF
CO-ORDINATOR, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3243 (XXIX) OF 29
NOVEMBER 1974 ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
THE SAID OFFICE, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3440 (XXX) OF 9
DECEMBER 1975, WHICH PROVIDES INTER ALIA FOR MEASURES TO BE TAKEN
IN SUPPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE,

RECALLING IN PARTICULAR PARAGRAPH 2 OF RESOLUTION 3243 (XXIX),
BY WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDED THAT THE ADDITIONAL COSTS
OF PROVIDING THE STRENGTHENED CAPABILITY OF THE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR SHOULD BE MET BY
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE FIRST YEAR AND DURING THE
BIENNUM 1976-1977, AT WHICH TIME THE METHODS OF FINANCING FOR
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FUTURE PERIODS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF

EXPERIENCE.

NOTING PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR, /2 IN WHICH HE REFERS TO THE RESPONSE OF GOVERNMENTS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 3243 (XXIX) AND 3532 (XXX),

AWARE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION SHOULD GIVE GUIDANCE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON MODALITIES FOR THE FUTURE FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR,

1. TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR, AND OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY ORAL REPORT ON ITS PROGRAMME MADE TO THE COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTY-FIRST SESSION BY THE CO-ORDINATOR;

2. CALLS UPON GOVERNMENTS OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORTING THE TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3243 (XXIX) DURING THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1977;

3. RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD CONSIDER, AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION, THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS FOR THE FINANCING AFTER 31 DECEMBER 1977 OF THE CO-ORDINATOR'S OFFICE AS STRENGTHENED PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3243 (XXIX), TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL.

2/ A/31/88.

END TEXT

2. FRANCE MADE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT AFTER DRAFT RESOLUTION ADOPTING STATING IT WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED IF THERE HAD BEEN VOTE AND REITERATING POSITION THAT EXPANDED ACTIVITIES OF UNDRO SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE FUNDED THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND NOT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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REGULAR UN BUDGET. ITALY ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH THIS VIEW.

3. THERE WERE MORE THAN 30 INTERVENTIONS ON THIS ITEM. DCS GENERALLY TOOK LINE THAT UNDRO MUST CONCENTRATE ON RELIEF CO-ORDINATION AS TOP PRIORITY. U.S., UK, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA, AND ITALY MADE THIS POINT VERY FIRMLY, AS DID IRAN. FRG STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PRE-DISASTER CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS AS WELL AS DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION AND EVALUATION.

FRANCE AGREED THAT COORDINATION WAS MOST IMPORTANT BUT SAID 60 PERCENT RESOURCE ALLOCATION TO THIS FUNCTION SHOULD NOT BE EXCEEDED GIVEN IMPORTANCE ALSO OF PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION WORK. MOST DONORS ALSO OPPOSED ANY OPERATIONAL ROLE FOR UNDRO. TURKEY, JAPAN, AND JAMAICA ARGUED THAT UNDRO'S WORK IN PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS SHOULD BE INCREASED.

4. THERE WAS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT AMONG DCS AND LDCS FOR HAVING ALL OF UNDRO'S BASIC ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FINANCED THROUGH REGULAR BUDGET, WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE FUNDED BY UNDP OR OTHER EXTRA BUDGETARY RESOURCES, INCLUDING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS (U.S., UK, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA) ASKED THAT UNDRO PREPARE A BUDGET DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION BY 31ST GA AND COORDINATOR BERKOL AGREED TO DO THIS. (HE ALSO TOLD USDEL PRIVATELY THAT HE HOPES TO HAVE U.S. ADVICE AND GUIDANCE IN PREPARING THIS DOCUMENT AS WELL AS ADVICE OF THREE OR FOUR OTHER MAJOR DONORS.) AS NOTED ABOVE, FRANCE AND ITALY SPECIFICALLY DISAGREED WITH THIS VIEW, WHILE THE EAST EUROPEANS (USSR, GDR, ROMANIA) TOOK NO FIRM POSITION. AUSTRALIANS MADE DETAILED AND RATHER CRITICAL STATEMENT ON UNDRO'S ROLE AND PERFORMANCE TO DATE OBSERVING THAT IT "HAD A LONG WAY TO GO IN ASSUMING FULLY ITS ASSIGNED ROLES". THEY SAID THEY ARE OPEN-MINDED ON QUESTION OF FUTURE FINANCING BUT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE GREAT DEAL OF DATA ON FUTURE PLANS PRIOR TO 31ST GA BEFORE THEY COULD DETERMINE THEIR POSITION.

5. TEXTS OF COORDINATOR BERKOL'S STATEMENTS BEING POUCHED. ABRAMS

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